

BAY SCALLOP

(06/01 ARCHIVE - NCDMF)

Stock Status--Concern- Landings and fishery independent sampling indicate this annual stock is showing poor recruitment and low abundance in Core Sound for the 2000 fishery. Abundance Indices from 2000 indicate an improvement to the 2001 Core Sound fishery. Bogue Sound abundance indices indicate a poor 2001 fishery.

Average Commercial Landings and Value 1991-2000--73,987 lbs of meat, \$185,161

2000 Commercial Landings and Value—21,269 lbs of meat, \$79,526

Average Recreational Landings 1991-2000 and 2000--Unknown

Status of Fisheries Management Plan-- No Plan.

Research and Data Needs--recruitment studies and recreational landings data.

Current Minimum Size Limit-- None

Harvest Season--When opened from December through May, twenty standard U.S. bushels per person per day not to exceed a total of 40 standard U.S. bushels per day in any combined fishing operation. When opened from August 1 through September 15, no more than 10 standard U.S. bushels per person per day not to exceed a total of 20 standard U.S. Bushels per day in any combined fishing operation. Recreational Harvest Limits are a bushel per day, not to exceed 2 bushels per vessel per day.

Size and Age at Maturity-- 1.5 inches,(shell height), 6 months old

Historical and Current Maximum Age-- 2 years old, 1.5 years old

Abundance Indices Average 1991-2000 and 2000

Core Sound-N/A, 3.33 (Sept), 22.4 (Nov) per two minute tow

Bogue Sound-N/A, 2.8 (Sept), 0.95 (Nov) per two minute tow

Habits/Habitats-- Bay scallops are estuarine dependent mollusks found in eel grass beds. Bay scallops spawn in early winter and in late spring when water temperatures reach approximately 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The larvae go through several swimming stages before settling onto a suitable substrate such as seagrass. Bay scallops are filter feeders and feed on benthic diatoms. Predators of the bay scallop include the blue crab, starfish and herring gull.

For more information, see [DMF Species Leads page](#)